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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 17, 1984 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 12 totaled an estimated 17.3 billion ton-miles, 9.3 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 19 weeks of 1984 was an estimated 327.8 billion ton-miles, 13.5 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 12 totaled 393,573, 7.1 percent above 1983, but 2.5 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 10.6 percent in the East, 0.4 percent in the South and 8.8 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1983, 12 of the 21 commodity groups showed increases. Coal loadings were up 6,751 cars (6.6 percent), motor vehicles and equipment posted a gain of 3,169 cars (17.6 percent), and grain loadings were up 2,904 cars (14.1 percent). Nine of the 21 groups increased from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended May 5 totaled 52,648 cars, up 17.4 percent from the corresponding week of 1983, and 88,445 trailers and/or containers, 14.1 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 18 weeks of the year was 904,132 cars, 18.7 percent higher than last year, and 1,567,585 trailers and/or containers, up 19.6 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/12/84:

	Loadings in Week ended May 12, 1984		Change from Corresponding Week 1983			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	23,482	I	2,904	14.1	D	593	2.5
Other farm products	3,900	I	151	4.0	I	135	3.5
Metallic ores	18,673	D	2,101	10.1	I	437	2.3
Coal	109,102	I	6,751	6.6	D	8,629	8.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,704	I	1,833	16.9	I	977	7.7
Nonmetallic minerals	11,153	D	526	4.5	D	147	1.3
Grain mill products	10,643	D	891	7.7	D	246	2.3
Food and kindred products	10,450	D	1,477	12.4	D	560	5.4
Primary forest products	14,007	D	1,577	10.3	I	208	1.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,184	D	178	2.4	D	133	1.9
Pulp, paper and allied products	14,574	D	495	3.3	D	194	1.3
Chemicals and allied products	25,639	I	2,533	11.0	D	571	2.2
Petroleum products	4,658	I	55	1.2	D	205	4.4
Stone, clay and glass products	12,144	I	824	7.3	I	310	2.6
Coke	5,602	I	900	19.1	D	340	6.1
Metals and products	10,357	I	2,249	27.7	D	965	9.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,166	I	3,169	17.6	I	309	1.5
Waste and scrap materials	10,273	I	1,557	17.9	I	486	4.7
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	7,380	D	795	9.7	I	174	2.4
All other carloads	60,234	I	11,168	22.8	D	579	1.0
LCL traffic	248	D	8	3.1	I	22	8.9
Total Cars Loaded	393,573	I	26,066	7.1	D	10,104	2.5
Corresponding week of 1983	367,507						

	1984	1983	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (19 weeks)	7,443,670	6,616,676	I 12.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
18 weeks ended May 5	310.5	273.0	I 13.7
Week ended May 12	17.3	15.8	I 9.3
19 weeks cumulative	327.8	288.8	I 13.5

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